










Insider

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GLASGOW - UK COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2015



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MCR PATHWAYS MENTORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Frances Ross, Project Manager at Customer Business Services (CBS), has been an MCR mentor since May. Here's what Frances has to say about her experience of mentoring a young person.

My background is in Education, working on projects such as free school meals and bursaries so I've had experience of working with young people and vulnerable families. I've also mentored young people that have come through the Modern Apprenticeship scheme and I've really enjoyed it. I think I'm an approachable person. I know that there are a lot of people who are not as fortunate as me. I thought it would be great to help some of these young people.

My managers - current and previous - have been very supportive to my involvement, particularly since I'm also on the Children's Panel. I tend to arrange my mentor meetings on the same day most weeks as that works for me.

I get a lot of enjoyment from working with my young person and getting to know her. She's a very clever girl and she's working towards six National 5s. She has been having some difficulty with Maths so I helped her organise a tutor. My daughter has also helped me pass on tips on studying and homework. My young person is very grounded and focused and her attendance is great, so I've concentrated on helping with her study plans and just being there to chat.

My favourite part of being a mentor is seeing how she is progressing. It will be great to see how she gets on in her prelims. I can see that our meetings are beneficial and I ask her regularly if she's happy with how it's going.

I enjoyed helping my young person choose her 'Talent Taster' session which is another part of the YGT programme. She was interested in the Primary Teaching introduction and it really helped her confidence



to go along and give it a try.

I think the matching process is very important. My young person reminds me of my daughter at that age. I can also see how well my colleagues have been matched by their personality and common interests.

The events that MCR organise are great and I go along when I can. I went along to an evening at the Kelvingrove Art Galleries and it was great to see all the young people showcasing their creative talents, they were amazing. I sometimes attend the coffee mornings where I enjoy meeting other school co-ordinators and mentors.

I'd definitely encourage anyone that's interested in mentoring to get involved. It can be a bit daunting at

first, but every week it feels more familiar and more comfortable. I find it's easiest to just go with the flow and chat to your young person and take it from there.

It's also helpful to talk to any friends or colleagues who are mentors. I regularly catch up with colleagues in my team that are also mentoring; we don't go into details about our young people, just share tips and ideas.

More young people across Glasgow, are asking MCR for help. They need support from a mentor to make sure they can reach better educational outcomes and career opportunities.

Find out how to get involved

To learn more about how the council is supporting you to mentor, or to read or watch case studies - featuring mentors and pupils - visit [Connect](#).